



The First Year Experience Community Update

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Student Testimonial Fall 2014

If it were not for Cornerstone Experience course, I would not be feeling the way I am now, confident and DETERMINED. I had serious doubts that I would have been able to pass this semester without Cornerstone. I can only hope that next semester is as great as my first semester.

-Amber Auckerman

I am proud to have been part of the cornerstone experience. The course has made me a better person and student.

-Felipe Avila Mejia



Cornerstone Faculty Feature

What do you enjoy most about teaching Cornerstone?

I most enjoy getting to know Cornerstone students as individuals, being inspired and informed by their experiences and energy, and being a part of the excitement and positive change that the first year of college brings to their lives.

Why did you choose to teach SLS 1515?

I chose to teach Cornerstone because it gives me a chance to have a positive impact on student success through both the content of the course and through the way the course is taught. The content is directly connected and applicable to academic and personal achievement, and witnessing student progress is always amazing! Cornerstone promotes the use of active learning strategies, which helps engage students, enhances learning at a deeper level, helps bring meaning and relevance to the content, and, most importantly, makes teaching and learning fun!

How did the course change you?

Teaching Cornerstone revitalizes me and strengthens my resolve as an educator! The activities, interactions, and discussions are both stimulating and challenging for me, as the instructor, but also deeply rewarding for me as an individual when I see the impact that the course has on student success.



Mary Ellen Schultz
Professor of Cornerstone Experience

Cornerstone Honors



This fall, the Division of Academic Success introduced six honor affiliate sections of Cornerstone Experience. Each honors affiliate section covered the traditional Cornerstone curriculum and an additional topic area. The particular topics of emphasis and several highlighted activities of the honors affiliate sections are featured below.

Civic Engagement,

Communication Ethics,

Education,

Psychology,

Social Justice



Pictured to the left is Professor Jacquelyn Davis' honors affiliate SLS 1515 class (Psychology emphasis). The class took a trip to the David Lawrence Center, which offers mental health and substance abuse services. The class also hosted a spirit day on campus that featured guest speaker Robert Iamurri (FSW Softball Coach).

Pictured to the right is Dr. Eileen DeLuca's honors affiliate class (Social Justice emphasis). The read "Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt" by Chris Hedges. And Joe Sacco One chapter focused on Immokalee, FL. The students participated in a presentation from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers that focused on Fair Food Program and justice for Immokalee farmworkers. As a final course project, students worked in groups to research areas in the U.S. where communities are working for social justice. The students presented their research and ideas to create a better society.



Pictured to the left is Professor Whitney Rhyne's honors affiliate class (Civic Engagement emphasis). This class selected a cause to champion: Unicef's Eliminate Project to eliminate MNT Maternal Neonatal Tetanus. The class raised over \$3,200 towards this goal by engaging fellow Cornerstone classes in a fundraising campaign and hosting a spaghetti dinner in the LightHouse Commons resident hall.



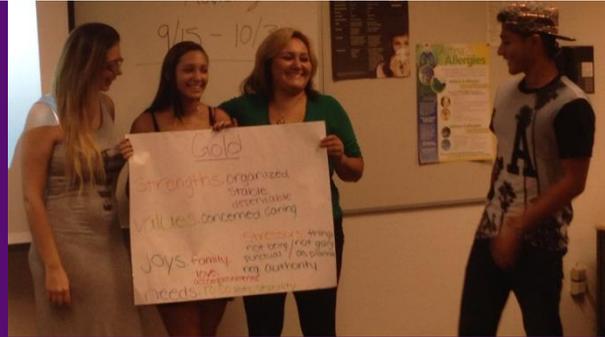
Cornerstone Experience

Student Testimonial



My first day in class I was skeptical of this course and exactly what it could teach me but as time passed, I met amazing people, gained new friends, knowledge, and study skills and became more at home with my college.

-Beatriz Alonso



I am proud to be a student at FSW, where I'm apart of so much more than just a school, I'm part of a giant family.

-Renee Stick

I'm proud to be a Buccaneer, in a college that feels warm and inviting.

-Jordan Philips



Cornerstone has helped me tremendously. I have gained so much knowledge about myself and key elements that every student and person should have. My professor was an outstanding teacher and pushed us students to succeed.

-Emily Austin

After spending a semester in this Cornerstone class I have now changed my philosophy to be: my college success depends on my effort. This class taught me the importance of goal setting, time management, and the importance of using critical thinking skills.

-John Boot

